

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



President's Corner

**Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX,
RARS President**

RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Spring has arrived! As you are making plans to enjoy your ham radio activities, please schedule some time to help RARS with 3 activities over the next few months. Volunteers are still needed to assist with RARSfest setup on Friday, April 22. A quick and easy way to sign-up to help can be found at the RARSfest webpage at www.rars.org. Alternatively, you may contact John AI4RT at ai4rt@hotmail.com to volunteer. Field Day follows about 60 days later on June 25 and 26. Bob W4TTX has indicated that all band captain positions have been filled. David KF4VXJ is working on donations to support Field Day. He could use some help picking up donated items during the week preceding the event. Please contact Bob W4TTX or David KF4VXJ if you can provide assistance with Field Day. Finally, please don't forget that there are many public service events, particularly during the month of June. Again, visit the RARS website or contact John AI4RT to volunteer for these upcoming public events.

The RARS Board has decided to provide \$500.00 to support RARS member, Sam KI4TRG, so that he can participate in the Youth DX Adventure Dxpedition to Costa Rica in July. He will operate as T15/KI4TRG for five days along with 5-6 other youths. Each member of the Youth DX Adventure will travel with a chaperone and his father, Steve KA8HXX, will be accompanying him. Steve KA8HXX is providing more information on the event in his contribution to this month's Exciter. Sam KI4TRG and Steve KA8HXX still have a lot of fundraising to do, since their portion of the expenses is \$2000.00. If you would like to help them with their expenses, please contact Steve KA8HXX at labinator@mindspring.com. On behalf of RARS, we wish Sam KI4TRG and Steve KA8HXX success during fundraising and more importantly, during their adventure of a lifetime!

Next RARS Meeting: April 5

7:30 PM: "12 Volt Battery Testing for Cheap"
presented by Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

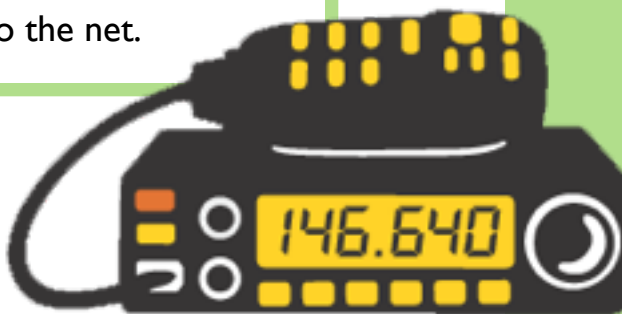
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

April Birthdays

Ray	K2HYD	4/2
Roger	KB4FEU	4/2
Luke	W7XQ	4/2
Bob	W4TTX	4/3
Mike	KG4LYS	4/4
Phillip	W4ABF	4/5
Henry	WB2AGA	4/8
Lawrence Carringer		4/9
Rick	KB4RZ	4/9
Dennis	NC4DK	4/10
Sam	KI4SED	4/11
Dan	KJ4UGD	4/11
Bob	K2QJ	4/11
Jim	KB4BZ	4/12
Ian	N0IAN	4/13
Cindy	KB8LVU	4/15
Dick	KB1HIW	4/17
Robert	KG4BDX	4/18
Kirk	KI4RK	4/19
John	W4WWD	4/20
Glen	K1GW	4/22
Joanne	KK4ANZ	4/23
Neal	N4HAF	4/23
Dave	KG4OPZ	4/24
Don	WA4AVU	4/26
Joe	KT4JOE	4/27
TC	KJ4LKF	4/27
Charles	WA4OSS	4/27
Billy	KJ4ZKG	4/28

Upcoming Hamfests

4/3	Hampton Roads Spring Fest Chesapeake, VA http://www.hrspringfest.com/
4/9	Mobile Hamfest Mobile, AL http://w4iax.net/hamfest.htm
4/16	Catawba Valley Hamfest Morganton, NC http://www.cvhamfest.org/
4/23	RARSFest (ARRL NC State Conv.) Raleigh, NC http://rars.org/hamfest/

New RARS Members

Bill Bates	NIULP
Lee Durrwachter	KA5NHU
Phillip Hare	W4ABF
Lisa Jenkins	KJ4KWG
Joanne Mars	KK4ANZ
Michael Medlin	KJ4TTQ
Roger Smith	AK4RS
Kathy VanKlompberg	N8MOF
Cliff Ward	W2TL
Deb Bray	KI4VVE

February 2011

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 495	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 36/28	Checkins: 60
Minutes: 510	Minutes: 390
Sessions: 28	Sessions: 10

A Ham's Odyssey

Article by Brian Young KA9QJT

On March 5, fourteen Hams assisted the Eastern Region Odyssey of the Mind folks in hosting another very successful regional tournament at Chapel Hill. Over 200 student teams competed at this year's tournament which was held in the various buildings of the Chapel Hill High School and Seawell Elementary School. For those of you that don't know what Odyssey of the Mind is all about, let me just say that the "problems" the students solve during the yearly competitions involve both left and right-brain skill sets. It's one thing to have the best technical solution to a given problem, but yet another challenge to present that solution with a bit of theatrics in front of the judges and audience members. It's maybe a bit like American Idol for the technically inclined. If you're interested in checking out the descriptions of the problems the teams selected from in 2011, surf to: <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/materials/2011problems.php>.



2011 Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament Ham Volunteers (L-R): Randy Bittle KE4PNT, Lars Soltmann KJ4POY, Austin Page AJ4VK, Ray Albers K2HYD, Al Nickle KE4IHX, Jay Diepenbrock KM4EP, Dick Orander KD4ISC, John Beamer W4UTA, Mike Thurman KB7NLA, John Snellen AI4RT. Not shown in the picture: Paul Lukosius N9PL, Rhett George KE4HIH, Art Katz W2JNW. Photo by Brian Young KA9QJT.

Each year, Hams are organized to shadow OOM volunteer "officials" such as the Co-Directors and several Problem Captains. In addition, Hams provide communication coverage from the Information Desks at both schools, the Score Room and of course the lady in charge of food. This year, there was even a bit of John Deere Gator piloting involved for some – Gator Mobile anyone? Communications was on 147.42 Simplex with an available portable cross-band station located between the two schools. Net Control was relocated to the High School Auditorium building this year. The higher elevation of that location, plus the higher elevation of the Elementary School (vs. the Middle School used in past year's tournaments) generally allowed fine coverage. Most of the Hams using HTs commented on being able to do just fine with medium and even low power. The Information Desk station at the Elementary School was located outdoors with a mast-mounted antenna – just in case a relay was necessary.

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A big thank you goes out to the Hams that so graciously volunteered their time this year. Many were veterans of past tournaments, but several were new and I certainly hope to see everyone back next year. The local Odyssey of the Mind organization thinks of us as an extension of their group and has grown to expect our help every year. 2012 will be a special year. There will be the usual Eastern Region Tournament in early March, plus the Eastern Region group hosts the State Tournament the following month. Interested? I'd be glad to add you to my list.



Above: Seawell Elementary School Information Station – John Snellen AI4RT made sure things were getting done right in the eyes of the law. Photo by Brian Young KA9QJT.



Above: Net Control Station – Dick Orander KD4ISC kept radio traffic and the stairwell at the auditorium in order throughout the day. Photo by Brian Young KA9QJT.



Award Presented to RARS

Article by John Snellen AI4RT

Larry Dean of Team M.S.FITS presents a plaque to the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society in appreciation of outstanding support for its commitment to Ham Public Service.

Accepting the award is RARS Public Service Coordinator John Snellen AI4RT. RARS and the ham community provide communications support for the M.S.FITS bike ride events throughout the year.

Team M.S.FITS events raise money to help with the battle against multiple sclerosis.

YDXA: Youth DX Adventure

Article by Steve Jenkins KA8HXX



Website: www.qsl.net/n6jrl

Six youth operators ages 11 to 17 from the United States ham community will travel to TI5N in Costa Rica in July 2011. The 5-day DX adventure will immerse the youth in learning operating skills, learning about propagation, and making contacts with DX stations. The team of 14 will travel to the contest super-station TI5N located in Costa Rica. During their stay the youth operators and their parents/chaperone (also Hams) will participate in learning about antennas; tuning amplifiers; controlling pile ups; CW, PSK31, RTTY and SSB operation; and all the finer points of being DX and working DX.

Additional information can be found at: www.qsl.net/n6jrl

This is a wonderful, once in a life time chance. This is an opportunity to expose the youth, the future of ham radio, to the wonderful aspects of our hobby. This is an opportunity to get kids excited about ham radio and science in general. Two chaperone/youth pairs are going from Raleigh, NC.

The four hams from Raleigh, NC are: Steve Jenkins KA8HXX, Sam Jenkins KI4TRG (age 13), Deb Bray KI4VVE and Grace Jenkins KJ4KWG (age 11).

To make this trip possible, each participant has been asked to raise a significant amount of money. Please consider making a donation to support DX expeditions, this team, and the future of ham radio. We are inviting you to make an individual donation of \$20. Though, donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and welcome. Sponsoring clubs can have their logo and web page link added to the YDXA sponsor web page and QSL card. Individual donors can have their name and call sign added to the YDXA sponsor web page and QSL card. The RARS board of directors has agreed to sponsor this event with a club donation.

Donations can be mailed to me: Steve Jenkins KA8HXX
2616 Falls River Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27614

Please make checks payable to Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) as they are a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation will be tax deductible. No donation amount is too small. Please contribute!

RARS Awards Meeting

Photos and captions by **Chuck Littlewood K4HF, RARS ARRL Liaison**



Left: Karl, W4CHX presenting Selene, KG4RMT and Hank, K4HM their RARS Life Member Plaques.

Right: Karl presenting a Certificate to Steve for his serving as a RARS Director-at-Large 2008 thru 2010 and his work as RARS Liaison to the First Alliance Church.



Above: Karl presenting a certificate to Marty, W4MY, 2010 RARS Field Day 20 Meter CW Band Captain for leading his team to significantly help RARS to the 1st place finish.



Above: Karl presenting a certificate to Alan, AB4OZ for running the long-standing weekly RARS Tech and Traders Net.



Above: Karl presenting a certificate to John, AI4RT for his appointment as the Wake County Emergency Coordinator.



Left: Karl presenting a Certificate to David, KF4VXJ for his tireless efforts on behalf of Wake County ARES and RARS Field Day.

Right: Thanks to everyone who came out to the RARS meeting.



Thank You!

From Hank (K4HM) & Selene (KG4RMT) Montgomery

We would like to thank the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society membership for the huge honor of being given Life Membership in this wonderful organization. We have been actively involved with amateur radio for over 35 years in a dozen or more organizations, in 4 different areas of the southeast, but we have enjoyed none more than RARS and its members. The services provided by RARS to both the local community and to amateur radio are second to none of the other organizations with which we have been involved and we are very proud to be members of RARS.

When we arrived 10 years ago, we knew no one in the area. The first person to welcome Hank to the area, and extend an invitation to the society, was Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, on the six-four repeater. The ham radio community quickly became our anchor to the area as we settled in. Over the years, the friendships have grown as we became involved with various aspects of RARS, and the members have become like family to us.

The honor bestowed on us is unsurpassed in our ham radio experience. We sincerely thank all of you and we'll strive to be good ambassadors for the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

2M Winlink Gateway in Raleigh Now Operational

Announcement by Bob German KB4RGC

I have just completed installation and testing of a 2 Meter Winlink Gateway on 145.090. It allows sending and receiving Internet email messages and attachments via Packet Radio. The gateway is located in S/E Raleigh and normally is in operation 24/7.

It is currently the only Winlink gateway in Raleigh and a digipeater for range extension into the western parts of town and into Cary is in the works.

Hams interested in knowing more about Winlink can contact me via email, RARS-64 or on the Carolina440Net.

RARS Christmas Party

Photos and captions by Chuck Littlewood K4HF, RARS ARRL Liaison



Above: Chuck, K4HF installing the 2011 RARS Officers, Directors and Chairpersons at the Christmas Party.



Above: Mary Jo, K4MJL and Sandy, AC1Y enjoying munchies at the RARS Christmas Party.



Below: The Encore Singers entertain us at the Dec. 7 RARS Christmas Party.

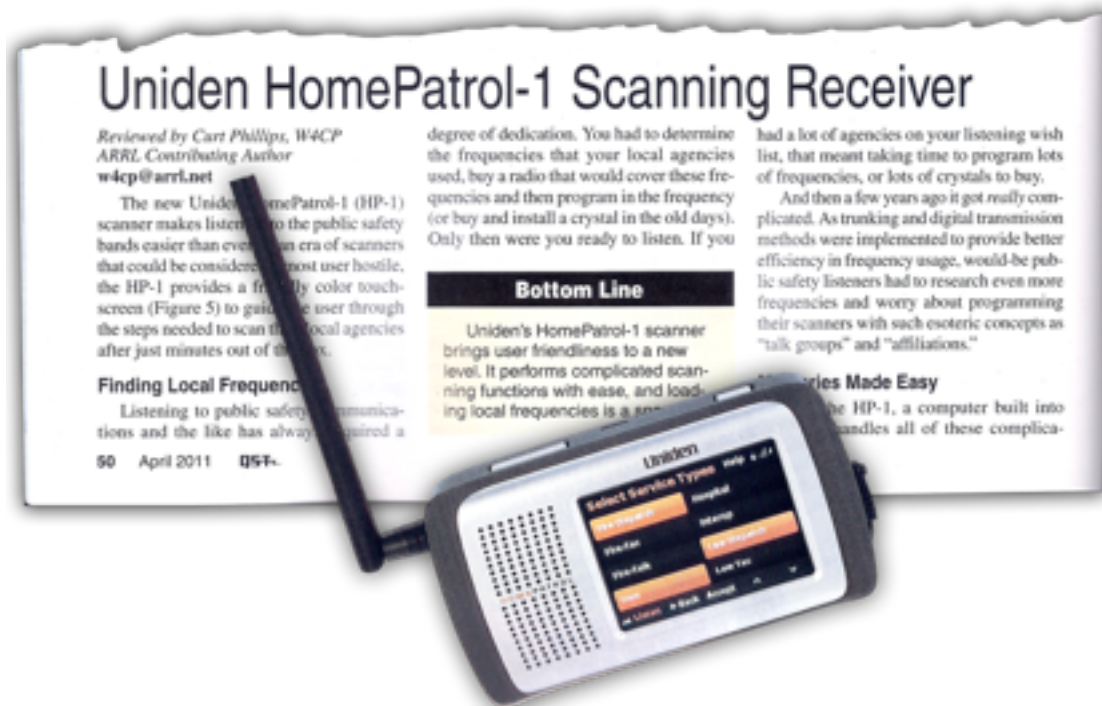
Announcement by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

RARS Member Curt Phillips W4CP's review of the Undien "Home Patrol" scanning receiver was featured in the April, 2011 issue of *QST*!

Curt wrote about how scanning has become more difficult in the age of trunked, digital systems, but how the Home Patrol receiver makes it easy. He noted that the radio reverses the usual procedure for programming a scanner, where the user would start with a "blank slate" and fill it up. The Home Patrol pulls in a database with ALL the local area frequencies, and the user deletes the ones he doesn't want to hear.

This isn't Curt's first time in *QST*. He appears twice in 1995.

Congratulations, Curt!



RARS Board Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2011

Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM

Present: John Snelling AI4RT, Ken McEwen KI4OTO, Jack Foster N6UYB, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Candy Orr KJ4OBQ, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, Karl Bowman W4CHX, Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Joe White WA4GIR, and Charles Swindell WB4DCM.

Guests: Bob German KB4RGC, David Crawford KJ4VXJ.

Apologies and/or emailed reports: Mary KG4OQA, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Gary KN4AQ, Don WA4AVU

1. Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.
2. Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The Minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting of the RARS Board were approved as amended.
3. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): VP CJ KJ4OBQ reports that she continues to work with Hank K4HM on the submissions signup page on the web. The March program will be John AI4RT talking about the RARSFest. In addition, it will also serve as our Awards Night. The April program will be on battery charging systems.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS now has 265 members. The fee for the NC QSO Party plaque has been paid. The contribution to the Wake Forest church for use of their facilities in November will be paid. Any RARS member needing additional financial information should contact President Karl W4CHX or Treasurer Greg KE4PAX.
5. Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): Secretary Charlie WB4DCM reported that RARS has received a thank you letter from Hospice of Wake County for our contribution in memory of our deceased member. About 2 weeks after the January Board minutes were sent out, he received an email notice that the mailing had failed. The January Board minutes were sent out a second time.
6. Committee reports:

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- a. Public Service Director (John AI4RT): John AI4RT reported that on March 5 would be the Odyssey of the Mind and April 2 will be the MS Spring Fling.
- b. Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): Based on his email communication, Gary KN4AQ reported that he “gave a 45 minute talk at the BEST conference [2/9/11], sponsored by the Wake County Local Emergency Planning Committee. I was invited to do this talk by RARSVP CJ. This is a group concerned with hazardous materials response, and of course they have an interest in communications during disasters. There were about 25 people in the audience. I got good response, several good questions, and an invitation to give the talk before a Wake County EMS group later this year.”
- c. Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): Virginia NC4VA reported that she has just registered with the ARRL as an instructor and has contacted Mike WA4BPJ to register, as well. In addition, another licensing class (General Class?) may be taught this spring.
- d. Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX): Bob W4TTX was present but had previously sent his report. Based on his email communication, commitments have been secured from all of last year's band captains, except two. Bob W4TTX is in the process of getting the other 2 band captain positions filled. Permission has been received to use the Carroll property again this year. Jim Carroll will not be able to participate in site preparation. Although Bob W4TTX is planning to get volunteer help to assist with farm chores in preparation for Field Day, he thinks it would be prudent to look into an alternate site. Several possibilities were suggested by various Board members. Treasurer Greg commented that RARS does have liability insurance and event insurance. Bob is looking into the possibility of having a Friday night meal at the FD site to entice more volunteers to participate in setup; and, he is working on some ideas for breakfast on Sunday. The meal for Saturday night will feature the traditional BBQ/chicken. Bob W4TTX reported that the new Field Day packet has been received, and information would be forwarded to Ken KI4OTO.

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- e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): Based on his email communication, Gary KN4AQ reported, "Regarding a possible RTP site for the I45.13 repeater. I talked to Charlie Durst NC4CD, and confirmed that a tower site he has access to is a strong possibility for a RARS repeater. The tower is just off I-40 near Page Road. I'll be putting together a group of RARS Repeater Techs to get this project moving."
- f. RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): Renting of the auditorium and lobby at the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine for VE testing was discussed. It was decided that since we are paying for the Jim Graham Bldg, we may as well use the facilities that are available. Karl W4CHX will communicate with the NCSU-CVM and cancel our reservation. John AI4RT advised that we are dropping the home brew and CW contest due to a lack of judges. Chuck K4HF reported that the Frostfest in Richmond was well attended and that many of the dealers have committed to attend RARSFest.
- g. Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): Courtney was not present, but Karl W4CHX thanked her for getting the EXCITER out earlier so that members can read it prior to the meeting.
- h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.
- i. Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): Based on her email report, Mary KG4OQA indicated that the "nets are going fine. There are no issues at the current time!"
- j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): No report.
- k. At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): No report.
- l. At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No report.
- m. At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB): No report.
- n. W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No report.

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- o. RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): Joe WA4GIR reported that at the February session, one individual obtained their Extra Class license.
- p. RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): Hank K4HM was not present but John AI4RT advised that the signup page for the RARSFest is complete.

7. Old business:

- a. Getting new club members, Echolink on the RARS repeaters (Bob KB4RGC): Bob KB4RGC discussed these items, which had been introduced at the January 18th Board meeting. He advised that by going to the FCC database, we can identify those hams in the Wake County area who have just obtained a license. He needs a letter to send. Ken KI4OTO will work with Bob to develop a letter and get the program moving. Bob then provided a handout for a RARS Echolink project.
- b. Nominations for ARRL instructor award (Karl W4CHX): While looking into the nomination criteria for the Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year award, it was discovered that Virginia NC4VA and Mike WA4BPJ were not registered as ARRL instructors. As of February 14th, Virginia NC4VA is registered and she has encouraged Mike WA4BPJ to do the same. After a brief discussion about nominating club members for this award, it was decided that attention would be focused Virginia NC4VA and Mike WA4BPJ. The deadline for submitting the nomination is March 15th. CJ KJ4OBQ will work on the application. It was commented that we should try to nominate our members for other awards from the ARRL and other organizations, as well.
- c. Board of Directors job descriptions (Hank K4HM): No report.
- d. Field Day 2011: donations and in-kind services project (David KF4VXJ): David KF4VXJ has prepared a donation request for submission to Whole Foods. A copy of the application was available for review. President Karl W4CHX thanked David KF4VXJ for the work that he has done.

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- e. Request for donation to support plaque for NC QSO Party (Karl W4CHX): Karl W4CHX reported that RARS would be sponsoring the Out of State SO/Mixed Mode award plaque at the 2011 NC QSO Party and asked Greg KE4PAX to forward a check to cover the costs (\$30.00) of the award plaque.
- f. Bereavement donations (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX did not have comments at this time. However, Ken KI4OTO commented that it would be preferred to have the family of the deceased member notified that the contribution is being made to a youth educational fund versus the Dick Bitner Fund. The rationale for this recommendation is based on the idea that the family members would easily understand, and support, the fund's purpose, even though they may not be acquainted with Dick Bitner or the reason for establishing his fund. Greg KE4PAX will get some advice from a CPA and an attorney about our obligations to the Dick Bitner Fund.

8. New business:

- a. Nominations for awards at the March, 2011 membership meeting (Chuck K4HF): Chuck K4HF advised that he has identified approximately 20 individuals for awards and will be prepared for the upcoming meeting.
- b. RARS participation in Maker Faire, Saturday, June 18, 2011 (Karl W4CHX): The Maker Faire will be held at the Kerr Scott Bldg. RARS, OCRA, and DFMA are being asked to participate in this event. During discussion of Maker Faire and how RARS could participate (kit-built radio display, soldering demonstration, etc), concern was expressed about key RARS commitments (RARSfest, Field Day, public service events), which would preclude RARS participation in Maker Faire. Ken KI4OTO will talk with Gary KN4AQ and others to see what participation level we may be able to obtain.
- c. Comments regarding NC Section News, January 2011 (Karl W4CHX): Karl W4CHX discussed the January, 2011 NC Section News provided by Bill Morine N2COP. Chuck K4HF reported

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that our club records with ARRL were updated recently. Karl W4CHX indicated that there is a club resources page on the ARRL web site; that NC Section Officers are available for club programs; and, our licensing classes are not listed on the ARRL website. Information regarding our education classes and VE sessions will be listed by Virginia NC4VA and Joe WA4GIR, respectively.

9. Any other business: Greg KE4PAX brought up the issue of donation of equipment. He expressed the opinion that we needed something more visible on the web site to accept equipment on behalf of RARS. Chuck K4HF commented that RARS does not have a club station and that we really do not have space to store donated equipment. Ken KI4OTO commented that we need a committee to evaluate the issue and will work with Chuck K4HF.
 10. Board member's comments: None.
 11. Guest comments: Dave KF4VXJ commented that NC State Surplus gives priority to 501(c)(3) organizations for acquisition of surplus property.
 12. Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.
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RARS General Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2011

Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM

- 1) Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:32PM by Karl W4CHX. There were 49 members and guests present.
- 2) Election of Life Members: Karl W4CHX read the following proclamation:
Whereas Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT has served honorably and effectively as Vice President and President of Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and
Whereas Hank Montgomery, K4HM has served as RARSFest chairman for several successful years and, Webmaster for Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and

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Whereas Selene KG4RMT and Hank K4HM are long-standing ambassadors for Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, especially during their attendance at hamfests throughout the Southeastern United States.

The Board of Directors of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society recommends to the general membership that Selene KG4RMT and Hank K4HM are made Life Members of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

By motion, second, and voice vote, the proclamation was passed.

- 3) Approval of minutes: The minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting of February 1, 2011 were approved as published.
- 4) Vice President's report (C J Orr KJ4OBQ): The April program will be "12 Volt Battery Testing for Cheap" presented by Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC.
- 5) Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): RARS now has 270 members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX.
- 6) Announcements (Karl W4CHX):
 - a) RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (3/8/11), 6:30PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (3/8/11) for any update information.
 - b) RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (3/15/11), 7:00PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Rd, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
 - c) After meeting gathering: Applebee's, Six Forks Rd and Wake Forest Rd (by the Costco).
 - d) Maker Faire NC: Maker Faire will be held on Saturday, June 18th in the Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds. Maker Faire is an annual event that tends to attract "do-it-yourself" people. The event is affiliated with Make magazine, a publication for individuals that like to build items, either new or using previously used items. RARS has been invited to join DFMA and OCRA in sponsoring a table at Maker Faire; examples of items for display could include kit radios, a learning to solder station, etc. It has been noted that the individuals attracted to Maker Faire are likely to be individuals that should be recruited to become involved in amateur radio. Presently, Ken KI4OTO and Justin AJ4MJ have expressed interest in Maker Faire. Please contact them if you are interested in participating in Maker Faire.
 - e) H.R. 607 "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011": Karl W4CHX advised that H.R. 607 has been introduced in Congress. This bill, in part, threatens portions of the amateur 420-440 MHz band. The ARRL strongly opposes the bill

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in its current form. All amateurs are encouraged to write their congressional representative and express opposition to the bill in its current form. For further information on the H.R. 607 and the process on how to prepare and forward your letter, see <http://www.arrl.org/hr-607>

f) Guests: William Snow WA4EAB, Joanne Mars KK4ANZ, and Don Earwood K4MQE

7) Reports from RARS Board members and others: There were no reports or announcements from Board members or others.

8) Any other business: Selene KG4RMT reminded everyone that the 2011 Charlotte Hamfest will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 12 & 13.

9) Presentation of Awards: The first part of the program was presentation of the RARS Awards for 2011. The following persons were awarded plaques by Karl W4CHX on behalf of RARS:

- Selene Montgomery KG4RMT and Hank Montgomery, K4HM Life Members.
- Justin Pinnix, AJ4MJ for service as RARSVP 2010.

The following were awarded certificates by Karl W4CHX on behalf of RARS:

- Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX in appreciation as a RARS Director at Large, 2008 through 2010 and as RARS Liaison to the First Alliance Church.
- Jim McRight KB4BZ as a Volunteer Examiner who has participated in over 100 ARRL or W5YI Amateur Exam Sessions.
- Mike Murphy WA4BPJ for the outstanding job leading RARS to a 1st Place Finish in Class 8A of the 2010 ARRL Field Day.
- Marty Young W4MY as 2010 Field Day 20 Meter CW Band Captain for leading his team to significantly help RARS to the 1st Place finish.
- Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ for running the long standing weekly RARS Tech and Traders Net.
- Tom Brown N4TAB for his appointment as the ARRL NC Section Emergency Coordinator.
- John Snellen AI4RT for his appointment as the Wake County Emergency Coordinator.
- David Crawford KF4VXJ for his tireless efforts on behalf of Wake County ARES and RARS Field Day.
- Dan and Marisa Sears, KD4AGQ and KJ4TAL, for their devotion of time and use of their Emergency Response Trailer for Public Service.
- Brian Young KA9QJT for his continued help with Odyssey of the Mind and his devotion to all Public Service Activities.
- Don Downs WA4AVU for his efforts in getting APRS Technology into RARS activities.

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- Liz and Joe White, KO4CK and WA4GIR, for their long-term leadership of the RARS Volunteer Examiner Team.
- Mike Iviciv KB3JJJ for facilitating the activities of Central Carolina Skywarn to be streamed over the internet in addition to the 146.88 repeater.
- Hank Montgomery K4HM for his tireless efforts as the RARS Webmaster to make RARS Club activities run more smoothly.
- Bob Conder K4RLC for his role as ARRL NC Section State Government Liaison in monitoring legislation that could affect amateur radio activities.
- Karl W4CHX then asked ALL present who assisted with the Public Service Events in 2010 to stand and be recognized.
 - Karl W4CHX then asked ALL present who have ever been a Net Control Station and/or completed Traffic Training to stand and be recognized.
 - Karl W4CHX then asked ALL present who have ever assisted on the RARS or OTHER Volunteer Examination Team to stand and be recognized.

10) RARSfest presentation: VP CJ KJ4OBQ introduced John AI4RT, Chairman RARSFest, for a presentation of RARSFest. John stated that 2010 had been a good year but that we were looking forward to 2011 being even better. We have moved to the Jim Graham Building for more space. John then went through an outline of the organizational structure of the RARSFest. Volunteers are needed. VP CJ KJ4OBQ made a few comments about how RARS members could register consignment sale items for RARSfest. Hank K4HM gave a quick demonstration about how volunteers can sign-up to work at RARSfest via the RARS website.

11) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM by Karl W4CHX

Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

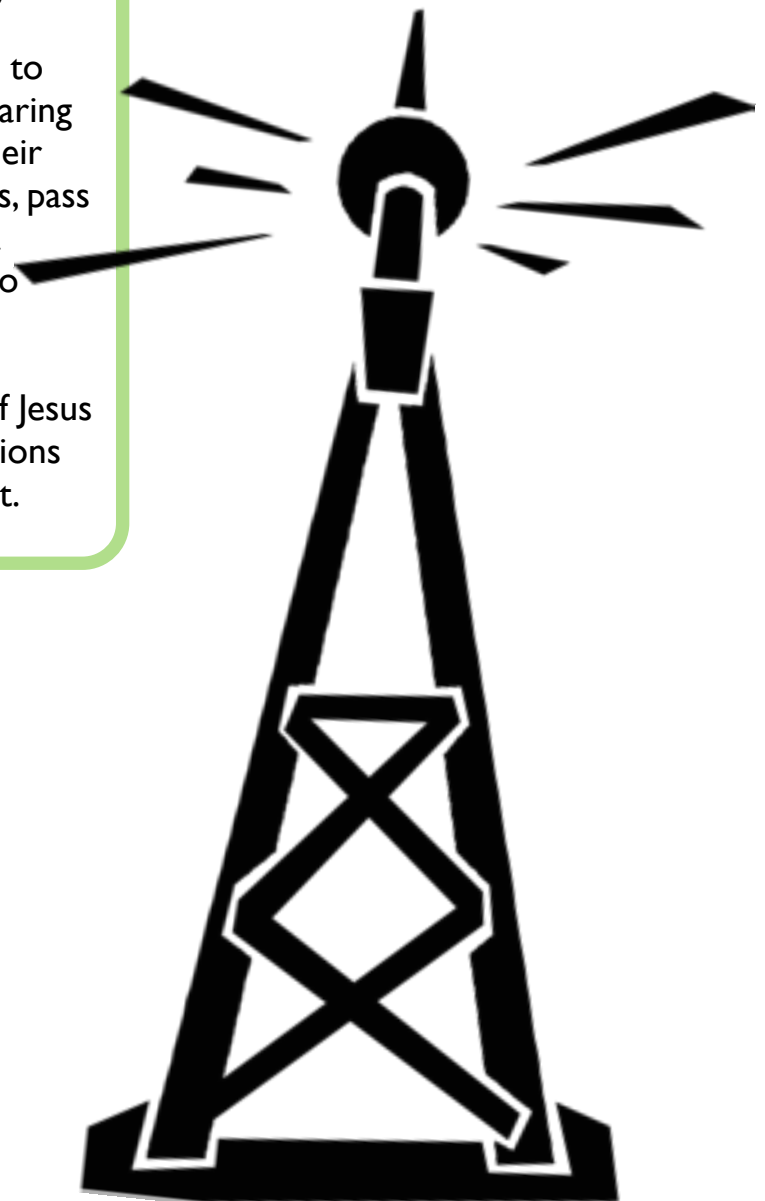
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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